4. *GOA*: They have intimated that the question of abolition of octroi duty cannot be accepted as it is a very good source of income to the Local Bodies and if the same is abolished, the financial position of every Municipality will be very critical.

5. *PONDICHERRY*: They have intimated that as no alternative source for raising the revenue to compensate the loss once the octroi is abolished has been sighted. It is therefore too premature to think of abolition of octroi.

Eradication of corruption in Railways

1285. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govement have chalked out any plan to eradicate corruption in the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Action Plan has been drawn up which is being acted upon. This calls for intensification of vigilance activities, especially in the following areas:—

(1) Mass contact areas like booking, reservation, luggage/parcels, goods and catering where public can be hurt/harassed.

(2) Where there is possibility of large sums of public money being misused/wasted, or leakage of revenue.

(3) Recruitment and selection of staff.

The activities comprise both preventive and punitive measures. The preventive measures include simplification/modification of rules/procedures (to prevent or reduce scope for malpractices), information gathering, identification of suspect persons & corruption-prone areas for maintaining watch periodic transfer of officers and staff on sensitive posts, premature retirement of officers/staff of suspect integrity, largescale education of staff supervisory officials and public and their involvement in vigilance, and regular and frequent checks. Punitive measures include speedy investigations and disciplinary proceedings, and imposition of deterrent punishment in proven cases of malpractices and corruption.

Regular and frequent liasion is maintained with the Central Bureau of Innvestigation, who supplement the Railways' Vigilance Work.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा दिल्ली में डबलरोटी निर्माताओं को रियायती दर पर गेहूं की आपूर्ति

1286. **श्री राम जेठमलानी**: क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने दिल्ली में डबलरोटी निर्माताओं को 280/–रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की रियायती दर से गेहूं की आपूर्ति करना बंद कर दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब उन्हें किस दर पर गेहूं दिये जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) क्या उन्हें अपने उत्पादों का मूल्य बढ़ाने की अनुमति भी दे दी गई है?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री (श्री राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम देश भर में सभी प्रयोक्ताओं अर्थात् रोलर फ्लोर मिलों, डबलरोटी निर्माताओं, व्यापारियों, आटा चक्कियों और राज्य की नियंत्रणाधीन एजेंसियों को 320/–रु० प्रति क्विंटल की दर पर गेहूं बेच रहा है ; लेकिन इसमें दक्षिणी जोन शामिल नहीं है, जहां इस प्रयोजन के लिए गेहूं का मूल्य 330/–रु० प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया गया है।

(ग) दिल्ली प्रशासन की सिफारिशों के आधार पर दिल्ली के डबलरोटी यूनिटों को 14-2-91 को डबलरोटी के मूल्य निम्नानुसार निर्धारित करने की इजाजत दी गई है :—

400 ग्राम की डबलरोटी—2.10रु० प्रति डबलरोटी

800 ग्राम की डबलरोटी—4.20रु० प्रति डबलरोटी

Prices of essential commodities

1287. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SULLIES be pleased to state:

(a) The consumer prices of essential commodities in December, 1989 and in December, 1990;

(b) whether the prices of wheat and rice in December, 1990 were more than what they were in the previous year although their production and procurement was more this year;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in Times of India dated 31.1.1991 that other factors have affected price rise less than the transport constraints because of short supply of diesel resulting in high transportation cost of every item that involves transportation; and

(d) the steps taken to curb the price rise and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement showing the retail prices of selected essential commodities in December, 1989 and December, 1990 and the variations in prices during this period is given in the attached statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. While the higher cost of HSD is one of the contributory factors for the price rise of some essential commodities, there are also other reasons, such as, shortfall in production of items like oilseeds and pulses, upward revision of minimum procurement/support prices of some crops, increase in railway freight during 1990 and the cumulative effect of high liquidity and increase in money supply.

(d) The Government has accorded highest priority to chek the rising trend in the prices of essential commodities. Some of the important measures taken by Government include strengthening of Public Distribution System (PDS), enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures and augmenting domestic supplies through imports, wherever necessary.

As a result of various measures taken by Government, there has been a softening trend in the prices of some essential commodities such as Wheat and a declining trend in the case of commodities such as Gram, Groundnut Oil, Potatoes and Onions in recent weeks.

Statement

(Rs. per Kg.)

Commodity/ Centres	December 1989	December 1990	Variation in price
1	2	3	4
RICE			
Bombay	5.00	5.00	Steady
Madras	5.00	5.50	+0.50
Kanpur	3.50	4.00	+0.50